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Illinois Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation



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ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

VOLUNTEERING - INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

"In a time when every tax dollar is precious, we in government must do everything we can to get the public involved in lending a helping hand; we simply need all the help we can get. For the past two years, I have worked to bring about greater cooperation between the public and private sectors. This administration's commitment to volunteer service is formally recognized through the Illinois Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation."

—Governor James R. Thompson

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR THE ILLINOIS OFFICE OF VOLUNTARY CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

VOLUNTEERS:

- * take time to care for other's needs; share skills, energy, ideas
- * give large portions of themselves to others
- * expand their horizons by teaching, nurturing, growing, experiencing
- * add variety to their lives and to those they touch while working to improve their communities
- * smile

THE NEED FOR AN ILLINOIS STATE OFFICE OF VOLUNTARY CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- * Human Service needs in Illinois are expanding more rapidly than available professional services.
- * Needs expansion has outdistanced budget availability for support of traditional services.
- * Illinois has an ever increasing work force of volunteers who want to commit time and talent to help minimize the gap between needs and services.
- * The U.S. Department of Labor projects the 1980 volunteer work force will contribute \$30 billion worth of services annually to the national economy.
- * There is no central mechanism for state-wide coordination of needs with volunteers to provide unified and widespread action.
- * The Illinois Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation will promote and work closely with a state coalition of volunteer service organizations for effective membership mobilization.

STATE OFFICE INTENT

The Illinois Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation will serve as a state-wide advocate

of voluntarism to promote maximization of volunteer participation and visibility. It will focus attention on the available time, talent, and energy of Illinois volunteers to meet or reduce identified human service needs. IOVCP will work cooperatively with other agencies, departments, and organizations toward the common goal of providing services for volunteers and volunteer programs. Government agencies and non-government organizations will receive support, assistance, and available information for organization and management of volunteer programs.

Illinois' volunteer community already provides many outstanding programs and services which IOVCP does not intend to override or duplicate. Communication and collaboration for achievement of goals will be stressed.

STATE OFFICE PLAN OF ACTION

The Illinois Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation will address its objectives through—

- * organization of a coalition of volunteer service organization leadership
- * implementation of a comprehensive system of volunteer information dispersal
- * publication of an annual report
- * distribution of a quarterly newsletter
- * use of the media for visibility of volunteer organizations, programs, services, events, and needs
- * development of an annual state-wide voluntarism recognition event.
- * provision of training and technical assistance to public and private non-profit organizations.
- * promotion of communication and cooperation between volunteer organizations and governmental agencies via state-wide and local public forums
- * service as a liaison to national volunteer and civic associations
- * leadership in promoting legislation supportive of volunteer issues and concerns

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STATE OFFICE HISTORY

Increased awareness of the growing gap between needs and services prompted volunteer leaders to urge development of a coordinated state system to advocate utilization of volunteers in addressing such problems. Illinois Governor James R. Thompson supported the development of a state volunteer agency and was instrumental in the grant application process.

As a result of the hard work of volunteer advocates, the Illinois Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation became a reality and fully operational as of May 1, 1980. Illinois joined 25 states already involved in OVCP programs.

Initial funding has been provided by a five-year grant from ACTION, the federal volunteer agency, and by matching funds from the State of Illinois. The Joyce Foundation has also provided a planning grant. Aided by the Governor's support of this state-wide volunteer coordinating mechanism, future funding will be sought in the General Assembly.

STATE OFFICE PERSONNEL

IOVCP staff consists of:

Nancy C. Silvers, Director

Charles G. (Chip) Woodward, Community Organizer

Gale L. Steinhour, Public Information Officer

Gale Brison, Secretary

This staff will be further aided by its 25 Advisory Council Members, representing a broad spectrum of backgrounds and Illinois regions.

VOLUNTEERS DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. The Illinois Office of Voluntary Citizen Participation will serve as the central governmental organization for volunteer activities to provide assistance in all facets of voluntarism.

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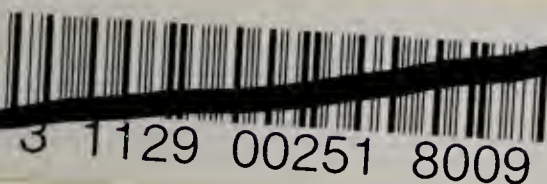
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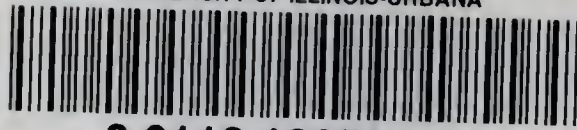
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**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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